

programs may not, may not possibly survive because we are going to have to come up with 6.5 million. I have suggested, and I hope tonight when you go home you take that...those documents with you that I gave you, and I hope you read them, and I hope you understand them. Some of you will. And I hope when you come back tomorrow you say, wait a minute, what about this, is there really an alternative to what we are talking about. I think there is. The alternative is you start here and you don't have to like Schmit. You can hate Schmit. You can hate the big companies, the little ones, you can hate industry, whatever you want to. The industry would be the first to tell you, you don't need the money. Now, I'm going to tell you something, I'm going to tell you a little story. There is going to come a time on this floor when someone calls you, a constituent, and says, whether it is the nursing home...nursing program at Scottsbluff, or whether it is the Department of Agriculture, Economic Development, whatever you have, and you say, well, we just don't have the money. Let me tell you something. If they call me and they say, well, Senator Hall said we don't have the money, and I'm going to say, how did Senator Hall, my good young friend, and articulate and eloquent as he is, vote on taking out 158,000 from the PSC? And they're going to look it up. Aha, yes, they said, he voted. I said, he's clean, he's clean. Now, that is not a threat. That is just the normal give and take. I know you are clean, Senator Hall. But the point is this, in all seriousness, in all seriousness we've got...we have reduced the funding that we have tried to reduce for the mental retarded by about half. You are still taking 300,000. Here is half the money. Here is half the money. Is it better to have the 158,500 laying over there in the PSC drawing interest?

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Or is it better to transfer it to the Program for the Mentally Retarded, those who can't help themselves and who need the help? How about the alcoholism treatment program? I don't know where it stands right now. You never know. No matter how it stands right now does not guarantee where it stands in the final analysis. Many of these programs, if we don't fund them, go right back to the county. The court house is the court of last resort. Unless we take care of them, many times the court house has to, and they've got their backs to the wall also. Mr. President, I ask that the amendment be adopted. I think it is a responsible vote. I think it is the right thing to do. It is the defensible thing to do. I hope that you support that amendment.